Government notified Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for enhancement of FDI ceiling from 49% to 74% in telecom sector *vide* Press Note No. 5 (2005 Series) dated 03.11.2005. The time period for the existing telecom service provider companies to comply with the conditions set out in Press Note 5 (2005 Series) has been extended upto 2nd April, 2007, based on representations from various stakeholders.

Inland water transport

*260. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that presently nearly 9 per cent of our rivers are used for navigational purposes despite India having world's largest number of rivers, canals and lakes being available for inland water transport;

(b) if so, keeping in view that cost of developmment of inland water network is less than 10 per cent of constructing a similar multilane road link, the reasons for 14,500 km navigable waterways not being adequately used; and

(c) the annual financial outlay for such projects during the Tenth Five Year Plan and whether these funds were spent?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) As per National Transport Policy Committee report (1980) India's navigable waterway (including waterways navigable by country boats) extend to 14,544 km out of which 5,685 km is suitable for mechanized crafts. The three existing National Waterways which are being developed by the Central Government extend to a length of 2716 km. Besides, waterways of Goa, Mumbai etc. are also used for navigation. In addition, country boats of various sizes use rivers, canals etc. for navigation. Adequate infrastructure built on waterways would induce greater use of inland water transport mode.

Annual allocation and utilization by Inland Water Authority of India (including CSS) during 10th plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) are given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Approved B.E.	Approved R.E.	Utilization
2002-03	60.00	51.70	45.75
2003-04	65.64	88.86	78.03
2004-05	133.50	121.04	72.46
2005-06	150.00	101.25	84.51
2006-07	150.00	133.42	71.18 provisional (upto Feb., 2007)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Availability of Uranium for Nuclear Energy Plant

†1797. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the availability of Uranium for utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and also for generating electricity following Indo-American Nuclear Agreement; and

(b) if so, the details of efforts made by Government for making available the fuel for nuclear energy plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are considering to increase the availability of uranium for generating electricity both through indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) as well as through imported Light Water Reactors (LWR).

(b) Besides the four mines already in operation, the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) has taken up two new mines at Banduhurang & Bagjata and a Processing plant at Turamdih in Singhbhum (East), Jharkhand. Pre-project activities have been started for taking up projects at Tummalapalle and Lambapur in Andhra Pradesh, Mohuldih in Jharkhand and Mawthabah in Meghalaya. Current initiatives for international cooperation are aimed at accessing the international market for uranium.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.